

substituting for deficient farm-yard manure its active ingredients, or that superphosphate of lime is no special manure for turnips nor ammonia for corn, it is imagined that the utility of these substances is contested."

In the first chapter is considered the formation of the roots of plants, and of their power in selecting food by absorption of the mineral matters of the earth. The second chapter takes up the consideration of the nature of the soil and sub-soil, and of the best method of restoring the chemical constituents of the food necessary for succeeding crops, as by mechanical means and the use of manures, rotation of crops, its influence on the quality of the soil, beneficial results of drainage, &c. In the third chapter is considered the action of the soil and subsoil in effecting certain chemical changes, a system of preparation, so to speak, of the plant-food, on the abundant or scanty supply of which will depend the fertility or sterility of the soil. The remainder of the work is devoted to the consideration of manures, and the agricultural value of various chemical compounds, such as earthy phosphates, wood-ash, ammonia and nitric acid, salts of soda, ammonia, and lime. In concluding the notice of this eminently practical work, we cannot forego the suggestion to our various agricultural societies, of causing to be delivered, in a plain homely way, a series of lectures on the subject of practical husbandry, which we think would do more to benefit our young country and lessen the statements so frequently put forth of farms worn out and valueless. Soon would the benefit become apparent in increased crops and wealth to the farmer. Illustrating by public lectures the benefit of allowing to live our warbler and insectivora tribes of birds, would do more to attain the desired end, than the most stringent legislative enactments. The general impression with the farming community is, that the feathered tribes are a curse, feeding on the growing crops. Such anecdotes as the one lately published of some 1800 weevils being found in the stomach of one of these little birds, with three damaged wheat grains, would add to the interest and vary the monotony of a dry agricultural lecture.

Many facts of this nature could be brought out, and much benefit, we have no doubt, accrue therefrom.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the Canada Medical Journal.

MM. EDITORS.—Be pleased to allow me a short space in your *Medical Journal* for a few remarks on the bearing of two operations for the cure